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CONTENTS.

PAGE

DANTE. (Sonnet.) *W. M. P.* 325

DANTE IN AMERICA 325

COMMUNICATIONS 327

The Preservation of Historical Material. *Frederick J. Turner.*

Historical Collections in the Middle West.—An Illustration from Kansas. *W. H. Carruth.*

The Romantic Drama. *Edward E. Hale, Jr.*

SOCIAL ENGLAND BEFORE WATERLOO. *Arthur Burnham Woodford* 329

THE LIFE OF A GOOD PHYSICIAN. *Percy F. Bicknell* 331

INDIVIDUAL ACQUIREMENT OR INHERITANCE? *Charles A. Kofoid* 333

MAX MÜLLER'S STUDIES IN MYTHOLOGY. *Frederick Starr* 335

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS 335

Philip and Alexander of Macedon. — M. Saint-Amand's new series on the Second Empire. — Maria Theresa and Joseph II. — Essays on book-plates. — A handbook for the study of epics. — Child study. — Cruikshank's portraits of himself. — The beginnings of art.

BRIEFER MENTION 338

LITERARY NOTES 338

TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS 339

LIST OF NEW BOOKS 339

DANTE.

Poet! who in thy vision journeyed through
Hell's deep, and up the purifying hill,
Through fires both temporal and eternal, till
The rose of God's elect entranced thy view,—
To thee had life revealed as to but few
Among the sons of men, what terrors fill
The world's wild thicket, what the joyous thrill
That knows alone the steadfast soul and true.

This great New World lay far beyond thy ken
When thou didst conquer life, and win release
From all its heavy load; yet now as then,
And here as there, thy words may never cease
To breathe into the inmost souls of men
Thy strength, thy tenderness, thy perfect peace.

W. M. P.

DANTE IN AMERICA.

Herr Scartazzini, the industrious German-Italian commentator upon Dante, has spoken of America as "the new Ravenna of the great poet." The comparison is a little forced, for the spiritual-abiding place of the deepest and tenderest of singers is now the whole civilized world, rather than any circumscribed area thereof, but our own country may at least claim a considerable share in his heritage, and no modern students have done him greater honor or paid him more true allegiance than our Longfellow, Lowell, and Parsons, among the dead, and our Charles Eliot Norton, among the living. These names occur to everyone who gives a moment's thought to the history of Dante studies in America, but there are few who realize how many other nineteenth-century Americans have from time to time paid the sincere tribute of their praise to the poet who, beyond any other that ever lived, binds with "hooks of steel" the souls of his followers to his own. We are more than ever before impressed with this fact after reading Mr. Theodore W. Koch's excellent study of "Dante in America," just published as the chief feature of the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Dante Society, and also issued by the author as an independent volume. The work is the outcome of a suggestion made by Professor Norton, who, as early as 1865, when the sixth centenary of Dante's birth was celebrated, sent to the authorities at Florence a list of the important American contributions that had then been made to Dantesque literature.

The first chapters of Mr. Koch's monograph are devoted to the work of the pioneers, among whom Lorenzo da Ponte, George Ticknor, and Richard Henry Wilde are the most noteworthy. The first of these three was a Venetian who, after a picturesquely varied career in several lands, came to America at the age of fifty-six. It is interesting to note that he was the librettist of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "Le Nozze di Figaro," and that when he began the book of the former opera, "he started by reading a few lines from Dante's 'Inferno,' in order, as he says, to put himself into good tune." He lived in America about thirty years, and died in New York in 1838. His occupation in New York was that of a bookseller. He also taught

his native language, and was an unsalaried tutor at Columbia College for a term of years. There is evidence that he lectured and wrote a great deal upon the subject of Dante, and his contributions to the short-lived "New York Review and Athenæum Magazine" constitute the first American textual criticism of "The Divine Comedy." Not very much is known of his life, and his closing years are wrapped in obscurity. In the pathetic preface of one of his later publications, he says: "During twenty-eight years I have instructed in my language, which *I, and no other*, introduced into America, two thousand five hundred people, of whom two thousand four hundred and ninety-four have forgotten me."

At the time when Da Ponte was engaged in awakening our interest in Dante, a scholar of American birth was at work at the same task. What we may call the Harvard tradition concerning Dante began with George Ticknor, who had learned in Germany to know the poet, and who, in 1831, was lecturing upon him three times a week at Harvard. Ticknor's second sojourn in Europe made him acquainted with "Philalethes," otherwise Prince John of Saxony, who was then at work upon his well-known translation, and a number of evenings were spent at the Prince's residence. The meetings of this "Accademia Dantesca" were devoted to discussion of the translation then in hand, Tieck being one of the participants. They were of much help to Ticknor, and the notes made by him at this time served as the basis of his subsequent class-room work at Cambridge. The historian Prescott was also interested in Dante at about this time, and a letter written to Ticknor, and dated 1824, is interesting as "one of the earliest American estimates of the great Florentine," as well as for the critical insight which it displays. Prescott was never a close student of Dante, but his reading went far enough to show him the many ways in which the second and third *cantiche* are superior to the first, which some later and closer students have failed to perceive.

Richard Henry Wilde, of Georgia, an Irishman by birth, but an American by adoption, is not very well known among Dante scholars for the reason that little of his work was ever published. He spent, however, several years in Italy, and devoted himself largely to the study of Italian poetry. His "Life and Times of Dante," which he left uncompleted, exists only in manuscript, and the last of the written sheets bears the date of 1842. During his stay in Florence, he made extensive original researches, and established several points that had escaped his predecessors. "I examined everything belonging to my era in the archives, line by line," are the words in which he describes his Dantean labors. The fact of chief interest in this connection is that he was one of the three men to whom we owe the discovery of the Giotto portrait in the Bargello. The credit for this discovery belongs to Wilde, Kirkup, and Bezzi. The search was set on foot by Wilde, and carried on with the aid of the Englishman and the Italian, the former of whom afterwards "took to himself credit for everything." Irving's account of the matter is perhaps as fair as any, giving Wilde his due, and closing as follows: "It is not easy to appreciate the delight of Mr. Wilde and his coadjutors at this triumphant result of their researches; nor the sensation produced, not merely in Florence but throughout Italy, by this discovery of a veritable portrait of Dante, in the prime of his days. It was some such sensation as would be produced in England by the sudden discovery of a perfectly well-authenticated likeness of Shakespeare, with a difference in intensity proportioned to the superior sensitiveness of the Italians." Simms was another American writer who wrote appreciatively of Wilde's work for Dante, and it may be mentioned that Simms himself knew the poet and translated a fragment of the "Inferno" into English triple rhyme.

Upon the Dantean labors of Longfellow, Lowell, Parsons, and Professor Norton it is hardly necessary to dilate, so familiar are they to our readers. Two of these men have given us complete translations of "The Divine Comedy"—the one in verse, the other in prose—while a third has given us a verse translation of about two-thirds of the work. Professor Norton has given us, in addition, a translation of "The New Life." Lowell, who may not be reckoned among the translators, has enriched our literature with an essay on Dante which, in the words of a friend, "makes other writing about the poet and the poem seem ineffectual and superfluous." The sixth centenary of the poet's birth was signalized in America by Professor Norton's monograph "On the Original Portraits of Dante," and by the private issue of parts of the translations made by Longfellow and Parsons. Longfellow began to lecture upon Dante in 1886 at Harvard College, and continued this class-room work for some twenty years. His completed translation was published in 1867, with the notes and illustrations that have helped so many students during the past

thirty years, to say nothing of the six noble sonnets that are known to all lovers of poetry. As early as 1843, Parsons gave to the public ten cantos of his translation, and prefaced them by the memorable "Lines on a Bust of Dante." He worked upon his translation at intervals for nearly half a century more, but died with the second canticle unfinished, and the third hardly attempted. The class-room work at Harvard, begun by Ticknor and carried on for so many years by Longfellow, was continued with even more of inspirational effect by Lowell, and has of recent years been conducted by Professor Norton in a spirit worthy of the tradition handed down to him. The Dante Society, founded in 1881 by Professor Norton and others, has just issued its fifteenth annual report, and is said to be the oldest organization of its kind in existence. Finally, it must be added that the American student of Dante may now have access to collections of material that are hardly to be equalled in any other country. The Harvard collection has been enriched by accretions from many sources, while the generosity of Professor Willard Fiske has provided Cornell University with "what is in some respects the most remarkable Dante collection in the world."

These are the facts of major importance concerning the history of Dante studies in America. For the minor facts, we must refer to Mr. Koch's admirable bibliography, which fills nearly seventy pages, and which includes not only editions and commentaries, but poems, magazine articles, and notes on the more important critical reviews of the works mentioned. For a first attempt at a bibliography of this sort, the work has been done with unusual thoroughness, and deserves high commendation. Year by year the entries increase in number, and testify to a rapidly growing interest in the subject. The catalogues of many of our leading universities now offer special courses in Dante, and the leaven of this study is at work in our national life. It is possibly true, as Mr. Koch says, that "there is no hope of Dante ever taking the place of a popular author with us, of becoming one of our intimates," but it is also true that there are other ways than that of direct contact for the ideals of a great poet and thinker to influence the minds of the masses. A better acquaintance with Dante would undoubtedly "leave us a sense of the emptiness of much of that which we make our boast, and would teach us the instability of national position and the permanence of moral worth alone."

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL MATERIAL.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

Apropos of the communications in THE DIAL called out by the important letter of Dr. E. E. Sparks in your issue for April 16, respecting the collection of materials for Western history, I desire to mention the work of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of the American Historical Association. This Commission was created in December, 1895, to perform functions similar to those of its English prototype, and the following circular has been issued and distributed by it to describe its plan and to interest individuals:

DEAR SIR: — Historical students, it is believed, will concur in the opinion that the general advancement of historical scholarship in America can in no way be better promoted than by the extensive publication of original materials hitherto unprinted. Of such papers a large number are in the possession of the United States Government, and have been printed or will be printed by it; others have been or will be similarly cared for by the governments of the Dominion of Canada and the individual States of the Union, or by local historical societies which print extensive series. But much manuscript material of great importance to American history is not thus provided for, being in private hands or in the possession of institutions which do not print such papers. The interests of American historical scholarship have seemed to demand the creation of an agency, representing all sections of the country and affiliated to our largest historical organization, which shall systematically endeavor to bring these materials to the knowledge of students, and to print those which are of most importance.

In this conviction, the American Historical Association, at its annual meeting in December, 1895, appointed the undersigned a Historical Manuscripts Commission, to deal in the manner above described with such manuscript materials as seemed to be of importance to American history. In this work, the members of the Commission hope to secure the coöperation of such private individuals and families as may possess or have knowledge of documents of historical importance. They feel sure that in all parts of the country there are collections of family correspondence which contain not only unpublished letters of our distinguished public men, but also many of a private character which would throw light upon our social and political history and might be published without breach of propriety. Private diaries also exist, and narratives of important movements and events by participants and eye-witnesses, as well as memoranda, account-books, and other instruments which would throw light on our economic history and especially upon those institutions and customs that have passed away forever. Should you own or know of such historical materials and be interested in their exploitation, you are respectfully invited to aid the Commission in accordance with the following methods:

1. By communicating to the Chairman, or such member of the Commission as you may prefer, a list of documents in your possession, with brief notes as to their contents, state of preservation, and accessibility to students. 2. By stating whether you are willing to have your documents published should the Commission desire to print them, and, if so, whether you could have them copied for the press. 3. By stating whether you would be willing, barring publication entire, to allow a list or calendar of your documents to be made and published, and under what conditions, in this contingency, the documents would afterward be accessible to general and special students. 4. By informing the Commission of the existence of private collections of historical materials in other hands, and by using your influence to induce the holders to put themselves in communication with the Commission or with some local historical society.

The Commission promise that the matter printed by them shall be edited with care and accurately printed, and that whatever is chosen for publication shall be first submitted to

the owner for his approval. They hope for your assistance in inaugurating a movement which they believe likely to prove of real and permanent utility to the cause of history in America. Your reply may be addressed to the Chairman, or to any of the Commission, at the addresses given below.

Very respectfully yours,

J. Franklin Jameson, Chairman,
196 Bowen Street, Providence, R. I.
Douglas Brymner,
Archives of the Dominion of Canada, Ottawa.
Talcott Williams,
331 South Sixteenth Street, Philadelphia.
William P. Trent,
University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.
Frederick J. Turner,
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

The Commission has already placed the first volume of its Reports in the hands of the Secretary of the American Historical Association, and the material is now in the process of advancement to the public printer's office. Among the documents contained in this report is a large mass of manuscripts illustrative of the efforts of the French minister, Genet, to secure the Province of Louisiana for France, with the aid of George Rogers Clark of Kentucky. These papers are chiefly from the Draper Collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, including correspondence between Clark and the agents of Genet. The archives of the Spanish and the French governments have also contributed important material to explain the views of these courts upon the project, and the whole relation of France to the acquisition of Louisiana is placed in a new light.

The Commission has also received, in response to its circulars, information of substantial attempts at the collection of manuscript materials in the West. It is to be regretted that these are largely devoted to material prior to this century. Many Western collectors have been more concerned to add to the material for Eastern history than to collect the documents needed to explain the development of their own region. The report of the Commission will include an index to such collections as were reported in time for its use. To stimulate and to make known Western collections is one of the things in which the Commission is most interested, and in which it earnestly desires assistance.

Frederick J. Turner.

University of Wisconsin, May 17, 1897.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS IN THE MIDDLE WEST.—AN ILLUSTRATION FROM KANSAS.

(To the Editor of The Dial.)

Although Mr. Hinton has already called the attention of your readers to the excellent work done by the Kansas State Historical Society, I question whether his note has given a realizing sense of the extent of that work or of the value of the collections. The builders of Kansas were conscious from the beginning that they were making history. In this respect probably no other community offers a full parallel. The result is that the material collected to illustrate local history is greater in proportion to the age of the State and the importance of its fortunes than in any other State in the Union. At the beginning of this year, there were in the Society's rooms 12,188 bound volumes of Kansas newspapers, and 6,035 volumes of newspapers from outside the State. The Society has published five considerable volumes of reports, including the official documents and correspondence of all the territorial governors.

But the most remarkable work in the line of historical record for Kansas — and I doubt whether it has a parallel in the West — is Mr. D. W. Wilder's "Annals of Kansas," a volume of over a thousand pages, giving in strict chronological order the details of the life of the State as gathered from the compilation and consensus of this vast mass of newspaper files. Mr. Wilder was himself one of the earliest editors of the State, and was reputed to be one of the best informed and fairest. His "Annals" give the unadorned facts in the utmost possible condensation, made practicable by an extensive subject-index.

In connection with the University of Kansas there is a quiet little body called the Memorabilia Club, which makes a business of collecting every sort of record of the institution and of those associated with it.

Professor Sparks's note of Kansas-Nebraska material in the library at Keokuk (The Dial, April 16) tempts me to ask: Why should not a system of exchanges of original material be adopted? For instance, this collection at Keokuk seems to belong rather in the records of the Kansas Historical Society, while I am sure the Society has valuable material which it would be willing to trade for it.

W. H. Carruth.

Lawrence, Kansas, May 23, 1897.

THE ROMANTIC DRAMA.

(To the Editor of The Dial.)

Frau Agnes Sorma, at the end of her recent engagement in New York, produced the latest play of Gerhardt Hauptmann, "Die versunhene Glocke." The play is a singular one and worth noting by those who watch with interest the contemporary drama. It is a fairy play (*Märchen* drama), and yet a play which deals seriously with serious ideas. "There is nothing for the stage in all this," remarks the New York "Evening Post," but notes, also, that the audience was intensely interested. The play has been in favor in Berlin since it was first produced last fall at the Schauspielhaus.

The success on the stage of such a play is an indication of one of the directions of the drama. Ibsen's "Brand" and "Peer Gynt" were dramatic poems, dramas to be read. Maeterlinck's romantic plays, let us say "The Seven Princesses," would hardly make an appeal to an audience. The same impulse is seen in Mr. Sharp's "Vistas," and in one or two of Mr. Fuller's "The Puppet Booth." None of these really attempt the stage. They are frankly meant as poetry and nothing more. But Hauptmann is a successful dramatist and he must put his ideas in form for public presentation. Leaving the realistic topics which his vagrant modernity has recently handled, he puts serious thought in the romantic guise of a fairy tale. He would put allegory on the stage.

This, I take it, is a Northern idea. The Northern nations love these obscure, mysterious forms, their imagination fluctuates and expands in these unconstrained analogies, in these emotional infinitudes. It has its charm. "The light which breaks through the cloud," says Henry Bordeaux in "Ames Modernes," "increases its enchantment, and I would rather have these indefinite lines of mountain form which mingle confusedly in emotional magnificence than the uniform splendor of this serene and tranquil lake." In his last words he thinks of the Latin races, who still love the classic outline, at least at the theatre.

Edward E. Hale, Jr.

Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., May 22, 1897.

The New Books.

SOCIAL ENGLAND BEFORE WATERLOO.*

The fifth volume of Mr. Traill's "Social England" will perhaps prove the least satisfactory of the series.† This is due in no small measure to the character of the period covered, and to the increasing difficulty that has confronted the editor and his co-laborers as they advanced the story of England's progress into the field of recent history. Even the portions which Mr. Traill himself contributes to this volume — on the subject of progress in literature in the period from 1784 to 1815,— are very far from being "a history of influences and tendencies" (p. 445), and have almost nothing to do with "the people." They have much more of literary criticism and of discussion of poetic theory than they have of public education and the literary habits and learning of the four or five millions of people that were added to England's population after the middle of the eighteenth century. Did these people read? and if so, what did they read? Were they educated? and if so, by what means, in what schools, along what lines, and on what pedagogical principles? Such are some of the questions for which one seeks an answer in "A Record of the Progress of the People"; but one seeks them in vain in this volume.

The volume opens with the age of Walpole and closes with the downfall of Napoleon. The period is one in which the history of England certainly cannot be summed up under any one descriptive formula. The political revolution of the preceding century was being completed and the way prepared for the industrial and material advance of the present century; not only had the Augustan age of English literature long since passed into history, but the wits of Queen Anne's time were dead or dying, and poetry was dominated by the classic but deadening methods of Pope. Neither of the four Georges could be called patrons of art or letters. But the eighteenth century has been made famous in art and literature as well as in politics and industry. It is the century of Hogarth and of Boswell's Sam Johnson, of the school of portraiture which was destined to the highest distinction in the persons of Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Romney, and which, indeed, "made the eighteenth century the golden age of English art" (p. 280). It is the century of Gray, Goldsmith, and Sheridan; of Richardson, Fielding, Smollett, and Sterne; of Hume, Gibbon, Robertson, Bishop Butler, and Dugald Stewart. The social life of a nation is indeed complex which will produce such men as these, alongside of Marlborough, Wolfe, and Clive, Nelson and Wellington, the Earl of Chatham, Pitt, and Fox, together with the long list of discoverers and inventors who completely revolutionized English industry in the latter half of the century. Yet, in spite of these imposing figures in army and navy, in parliament and the civil administration, in church and state, in literature, art, politics, science, and theology, the age remains one of transition and preparation rather than one of distinctive completeness. The work of the Revolution was in process of consolidation, but the work of reform which was attempted in vain in Walpole's time was begun again by the younger Pitt, only to be interrupted by "the panic engendered by the French earthquake," and was not completed until well into the present century. So, too, of the many social and economic movements begun in connection with the use of machinery and the establishment of the factory system. These were held in check not only by the peculiar inertia of English habits and institutions, but by the war and its burden of taxation, by the fear of a Napoleonic invasion, by the terror of French doctrines of democracy and republicanism. Fiscal reform, factory legislation, extension of the suffrage, Catholic emancipation, — these and other steps in human progress were not made until after the close of the Napoleonic era.

The two changes of greatest significance were in the development of cabinet government, and in the method of manufacture, particularly of textiles. George I. had practically no knowledge of the English Constitution, and he displayed little disposition to acquire any. The chief direction of affairs therefore fell into the hands of his ministers. Moreover, he was a prudent man, and not inclined to try the experiment of a mixed ministry. The ascendency of the Whigs therefore continued without serious interruption until the reign of George III. That monarch prided himself on being an Englishman, and determined to resume the power which his predecessors had abdicated to Walpole and his successors. But the victory of

*SOCIAL ENGLAND. A Record of the Progress of the People, in Religion, Laws, Learning, Arts, Industry, Commerce, Science, Literature, and Manners, from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. By Various Writers. Edited by H. D. Traill, D.C.L. Volume V., from the Accession of George I. to the Battle of Waterloo. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

†See THE DIAL, Vol. XVIII., No. 205, pp. 15-17; Vol. XIX., No. 220, pp. 87-88; Vol. XX., No. 235, pp. 203-205.

Pitt in the election of 1784, which seemed at first sight to be the decisive event in the long struggle which the king had been carrying on against Parliament, was in fact a victory for the people.

"The king undoubtedly regarded Pitt as the minister of his choice, and one who would carry out the royal views. But that statesman entirely appreciated the necessity of a close alliance between the king and the mass of his subjects, and by dint of consummate tact he obtained such an influence over George III. that the constitution was in no wise impaired by the apparent triumph of the royal power" (p. 366).

Indeed, the essential features of cabinet government were more strongly established during Pitt's ministry than ever before, in spite of the fact that what is known as liberal legislation was stopped and all schemes for reform suspended as soon as war was declared against the French, and although the reaction against a progressive policy continued until long after the defeat of Napoleon — until 1822, and later. What George III. in vain attempted to establish in England in the last century is practically the system in vogue to-day in the United States, and is properly styled the "departmental system," in accordance with which each minister is responsible for his own department and answerable to the president (or king) for his actions. The opposing (English) principle makes the cabinet consist of a body of statesmen who are in thorough political agreement, and are jointly responsible for all the measures they propose, and practically responsible to Parliament. It is a principle which is not at all likely to be introduced into national politics in America, although we may find in it a solution of some of the problems of city government; but it became incorporated into the English national policy during the last century, as the most important outcome of the Revolution of 1688.

"It virtually deprived the sovereign of his right to reject bills which had passed both Houses. This right was indeed exercised several times by William [III.] with reference to measures of grave consequence, but it was only once exercised by Anne, and has never been exercised since her death. Since the Revolution, Parliament has met every year, and has sat for a considerable time. Ample opportunity has thus been afforded for all the legislation demanded by public opinion, and direct legislation has thus become the normal means of altering the law. Judicial decision continues, indeed, to be a potent agency of improvement, but it is used rather to define and apply principles already acknowledged than to introduce principles altogether novel" (p. 35).

But this political development is in a sense superficial, resting on the deeper change in material condition and industrial progress of the people. The change in agricultural conditions and method is set forth with wonderful effect by Mr. Prothero, in his account of the aspect of the country in the middle of the last century, his explanation of the open-field system, and his picture of the rural life of the times. There are few things better calculated to give one a clear idea of how recent has been the real advance of the English nation.

"Vast tracts of country, which are now cultivated, then lay waste and unenclosed. Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire were still undrained. Robin Hood would have found his forest of Sherwood still covering the greater part of Nottinghamshire. Derbyshire was a black region of ling, and from the northern point of the county to the extremity of Northumberland — a distance of 150 miles — the traveller would, like Jeanie Deans, encounter nothing but wastes. . . . Of the cultivated land of England, more than three-fifths was tilled on the open-field system — in village farms which were practically isolated and self-supporting. The inhabitants had little need of communication with their immediate neighbors, still less with the outside world. . . . The average size of a single holding was eighteen acres of arable land, two acres of meadow, and common rights, over the common field and other commonable places, for forty sheep and as many cattle as the holder could fodder in the winter months. But each holding not only varied in size, but was cut up into minute, scattered, intermixed strips. One man might hold his portion of the soil as freehold, another as copyhold, another as leaseholder for life, another as a tenant for a certain length of time, from year to year, or at will. But whatever the tenure by which the land was held, the whole was farmed in common upon a system which, originating at a date before the Norman Conquest, in 1689, governed the tillage of at least three-fifths of the cultivated soil of the country, and though it gradually disappeared in the last three decades of the eighteenth century and the first half of the present century, yet survived in 1879" (pp. 100–102).

It was not until near the end of the last century that the sudden devolopment of manufacturing industries gave a wide market for agricultural produce, and the primitive self-sufficing farms were turned into manufactories of bread and beef.

"Under the pressure of necessity, enclosures (both of uncultivated land and of open-field farms), reclamation of wastes, partition of commons, large farms, long leases, capitalist landlords and farmers, and scientific husbandry convulsed rural society, and absolutely revolutionized its general aspect. The extinction of the commoner, the small freeholder, the small farmer, and even the yeoman was the price which the nation paid for food for its manufacturing population" (p. 107).

Toward the end of the century there came revolutions in manners and dress, and in popular sentiment, as well as in agriculture, industry, and politics. When the income tax fell at the rate of £20 on an income of £200, it was not possible to indulge in expensive amuse-

ments. The rise in the price of wheat from 31*s.* the quarter to 116*s.*, and the consequent scarcity of flour, necessitated some change of diet; while the added tax on powder (1795) actually caused a total change in the personal appearance of both sexes, for men ceased to wear powdered wigs, and women had no more powdered "heads." Both sexes allowed the natural hair to grow. In July, 1795, the Privy Council implored all families to abjure puddings and pies, and declared their own intention to have only fish, meat, vegetables, and household bread, made partly of rye, — and the loaf should be put on the table for each to help himself, that none be wasted. An idea of the cost of living is given in the following list of prices: At a shop for ready-made clothes, a great-coat was 13*s.*; a waistcoat, 6*s.* 6*d.*; stout breeches, 8*s.* 9*d.*; stockings, 1*s.* 9*d.*; dowlas shirt, 4*s.* 6*d.*; strong shoes, 7*s.*; a hat "to last three years," 2*s.* 6*d.* Linens and cambrics were still comparatively high in price. A woman's shift was 8*s.* 8*d.*, when a stuff gown was only 6*s.* 6*d.* A linsey-woolsel petticoat was 4*s.* 6*d.*; pair of shoes, 3*s.* 9*d.*; stays "to last six years," 6*s.*; and "a hat of the cheaper sort," 1*s.* 6*d.* (p. 496).

"Swords being no longer worn in Parliament, they ceased to be worn at social gatherings. The plebian umbrella displaced the clouded cane, and gentlemen could walk in the streets protected from the weather without calling immediately for a chair or a coach. . . . It was a serious, self-conscious time, a time when seriousness of purpose told to the full. Finish of manner was at a discount. . . . At a time when so many stirring events were happening, conversation was more interesting than cards. Political excitement began to take the place of 'pleasure' and 'diversion' in the social world. There were military, naval, parliamentary, financial, and literary careers to be made, and made quickly. It was a time to rouse ambition in young men, who now found themselves compelled to act, not to travel with a tutor, educating themselves to gain distinction as professional idlers. It was a time of great inventions, a time when genius in whatever class it was found quickly gained its reward."

A detailed consideration of these inventions and the features of the industrial revolution will be reserved until the appearance of the succeeding volume.

ARTHUR BURNHAM WOODFORD.

Two quarterly parts of the "New English Dictionary" have been published thus far in the present year. The first of these parts, prepared by Dr. Murray, carries the letter D from Disobstetricate to Distrustful; the second of them edited by Mr. Henry Bradley, pursues the letter F from Flexuosity to Foister. The Macmillan Co. are the American agents for the work.

THE LIFE OF A GOOD PHYSICIAN.*

Reviewers of books, we are told by Bacon, are brushers of noblemen's clothes. Perhaps no book ever made its reviewer more willing to acknowledge the aptness of this illustration than the work before us, which contains some posthumous autobiographical chapters from the life of a good physician, a noted reformer and philanthropist, and an eminent scientist. They are written modestly and without the slightest pretention to literary style, but they make us agree with Emerson in his definition of autobiography — "what a biography ought to be."

Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., was born in 1828 and died in 1896. He was educated at the Andersonian University, Glasgow, and at the University of Saint Andrews. He was a prolific writer on public health, alcoholism, poisons, education, and other topics, his best-known books being "Diseases of Modern Life," "Results of Researches on Alcohol," and "Temperance Lesson-Book." So much for a skeleton on which to hang a few comments and extracts.

Consecrated at his mother's death-bed to the life of a healer of the sick, the youthful Richardson never swerved from the course which lay before him. Every part of his education, even from the first, seemed to contribute to the one end in view. He says of his dame-school:

"For my part, I was fortunately well-favored in regard to school-days. The practice of teaching boys to sew, not uncommon sixty years ago, and a part of my dame's plan of education, was a good practice, and to me proved uncommonly useful, rendering me, in the profession of a doctor, more than usually quick, not merely in stitching up wounds, but in connecting bandages and making them fit with neatness of adaptation."

From the account of his school days he passes to the description of his "entrance into physic." After coming near to yielding to a boyish freak to run away to sea, he followed the custom of would-be doctors of the early part of the century, and entered the office of Mr. Henry Hudson, a practitioner in Somerby, Leicestershire, his own early home. Hudson was not only a good doctor, but he was also a general scholar, and humane and broad in his views. His influence on his young pupil may well have been important. The writer tells us how his master so hated the sight of the public stocks that he one night dug them up and cast them into the fish-pond. Regret is expressed that

*VITA MEDICA: Chapters of Medical Life and Work. By Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

the custom no longer obtains of binding boys for a number of years to practising physicians, as a necessary training for a medical career.

"I have often said, and again say it, that this method of introduction to our profession, now practically abandoned, was the best that could be, and ought to have remained untouched. It was a fruitful source of income to every respectable practitioner; it kept such practitioners well up to the mark; it made good openings for introductions and practice; it was warmly appreciated by the public at large; it cultivated well a common field, and effected a sound and general good. The chief benefit was to the student himself, for he learned early in life all the practical branches he afterwards most needed; he soon acquired as 'the young doctor' the style and manners of the medical man; he learned the mode of entering the sick-room, and of conversing with the sick; he practised naturally the true etiquette of physic; he became a good rider on horseback, and a good driver of gig or phaeton; he was familiarized with the night-bell; he gained ripe experience as a dispenser of drugs, and knew by sight, touch, and odour every drug he was called upon to dispense."

Truly a quaint and interesting picture of the doctor of the old school!

After leaving Dr. Hudson, Richardson entered the Andersonian University in Glasgow, and there and at Saint Andrews his medical education was completed. While he was in Glasgow the news of Dr. Morton's success in producing anæsthesia was brought to London and thence to Scotland, and caused the liveliest excitement in medical circles. Richardson and his class were waiting in the lecture-theatre when their lecturer, Dr. Moses Buchanan, entered, five minutes late, and announced that he could not address the class on that day, as he was on his way to the Royal Infirmary to take part in the first trial of the new discovery.

"As a matter of course, this news created the utmost excitement. We trooped off to the Royal Infirmary as fast as our legs would carry us, and in due time were crowding into the operating-theatre. . . . The room formed a chapel on a Sunday, and in the rush for seats the best places were speedily secured. I and one or two other students got into the pulpit, which formed an excellent place for observation. . . . The patient was then sent for, and came in with quite a smiling face, delighted with the idea of being cut without pain, and rather proud, I fancy, at being the first man in Scotland selected to enjoy the honour as well as the pleasure. . . . Dr. Fleming, with the house-surgeon of the day for Buchanan's ward, commenced to administer the ether vapour from a sponge surrounded by a towel. In a short time the patient — whose name, I think, was Macleod — began to talk and sing in a loud voice in the style not uncommon to the second stage — as we afterwards designated it — of the ether narcotism, giving us a line or two at least from 'Bobby'— the poet Burns — and communicating one or two secrets which he might just as well have kept to himself. He then lapsed into perfect quietude, and soon afterwards was allowed to wake up with the operation completed, without knowing that he had passed through anything more than a curious dream, feeling, as he affirmed with a broad grin, just 'a wee bit fou,' and in no degree ashamed of his acquaintance with that condition."

During his early practice — much of it gratuitous, in a gypsy camp — Dr. Richardson devoted considerable time to the study of prenatal disease, and won the Fothergillian gold medal for an essay in this field. His abhorrence of animal suffering caused him to invent the lethal chamber for the painless destruction of dogs and other small animals. His active interest in public health led to his being chosen the first chairman of the Sanitary Institute. Annual sanitary congresses were held at different towns in the kingdom, with exhibitions of sanitary appliances. A meeting at Leamington in 1877 was noteworthy. An exhibition was made of bicycles and the first tricycle; they were shown as health-promoting devices, and Dr. Richardson rode one "in the presence of a large concourse of people." In a note, the writer describes the first or parent velocipede, made of wood, in the town of Leicester, in 1837 or 1838. French claims to the credit of this invention are argued to be without foundation. It is interesting to note the contention of the writer that "by cycling, the sanitation of this country, to say nothing of other countries that have adopted it generally, has been advanced a hundred years." He further says: "All the world is for cycling now, as if a new pair of legs had been invented, and the advance in health and strength has been unparalleled."

It were hopeless to attempt here any enumeration of Richardson's reforms and discoveries. For his researches in the effects of alcohol he perhaps deserves the most credit. At the cost of friends and practice, he stood for what seemed to him the right both on scientific and on moral grounds. So late as 1869 it was considered fanatical to object to a moderate indulgence in alcoholic drinks, while their use as medicines was universal. The chapter on "The Breath of Life" is full of suggestion, and shows the "scientific imagination" at its best; while that on "Revolutions in Physic" gives a comprehensive survey of the vast strides made in medicine and surgery within the memory of men still living. Noteworthy is the author's attitude toward the modern germ-theory of disease, on which he acknowledges himself a skeptic.

We close this record of an unselfish and useful life with feelings of gratitude that the life was so nobly lived and that a permanent record

of it has been left for the emulation of later generations. The closing words of the book were written on the 18th of November, 1896, only two hours before the writer was seized with the illness which ended fatally not three days later. PERCY F. BICKNELL.

INDIVIDUAL ACQUIREMENT OR INHERITANCE?*

Of late years biological controversy has centred about the contention of Weismann that modifications of structure or activity acquired during the lifetime of an organism are not transmitted by heredity to its descendants. The Neo-Darwinian school maintains that the effects of use and disuse, and the still more subtle influences of environment, do not pass from the body of the parent to the germ-cells or to the offspring developing therefrom. The whole burden of advance in the scale of life is thus thrown upon natural selection operating upon congenital variations. The Neo-Larnarckians, on the contrary, insist that the modifications acquired after birth by the parent are in some way, as yet unexplained, handed on to descendants to be checked or accentuated, as may be, by natural selection. The inheritance of acquired modifications would thus become an important factor in the evolution of lower animals and of man himself. The final appeal must be made to the evidence of such inheritance displayed in the organic world; and by this test the conflicting theories must stand or fall.

Professor Morgan, in his work on "Habit and Instinct," has transferred the discussion from the field of anatomical structure to the no less interesting and important realm of the mental activities of animals. Conciseness of definition and clearness of treatment make it a pleasure to follow the argument to its culmination in the chapter on "Heredity in Man." The book is based on the author's minute and painstaking studies of the habits and instincts of young birds, especially of those activities exhibited in the first few days of life when the distinction between that which is congenital and that which is acquired stands out in sharpest relief.

Instinctive activities are common to, and are similarly performed by, all like members of a more or less restricted group of animals. They are essentially lacking in individuality. The bear hibernates; the swallow migrates; the chick pecks at small particles, not because of his individuality but because he is a representative of his kind. It is difficult to draw the line between reflex and instinctive action; Mr. Herbert Spencer has defined the latter as compound reflex action. A reflex act is a restricted, localized response to an external stimulus involving a particular organ or group of muscles. An instinctive act is a response of the organism as a whole, involving, it may be, many organs; and the stimulus seems, in some instances at least, to be of internal origin, as in the case of the spinning of a cocoon by the silkworm. The constancy of behavior in instinctive activities is not absolute, but, as in the case of structural characters, is probably subject to slight individual variations. These activities are usually performed under special circumstances of supreme importance to the race, and are often of frequent occurrence. They may have a protective value, as in the coiling up of the hedgehog; or they may be mimetic, as in the case of hunting spiders which rub their heads very much as do the flies which they stalk. Some instinctive acts are performed but once, and often in a serial order of remarkable complexity. This is well illustrated, as the late Dr. Riley has so admirably shown, in the instinctive acts of the Yucca moth, which, emerging while the Yucca is in bloom, collects the pollen from the anthers, kneads it into a pellet, and carries it to another flower. Here the moth first deposits her eggs in the ovary of the flower, and then rubs the mass of pollen upon the stigma. By this act the development of the ovules of the Yucca is insured, and at the same time the growing larvæ of the moth are provided with food. The number of ovules is, however, in excess of their needs, and the surplus reaches maturity. This remarkable series of adaptive activities is performed but once in life, and unerringly. There is no previous instruction, no opportunity to learn by imitation, no prevision of the outcome of the act. Instinctive acts are thus hereditary, and are performed with a definiteness which is congenital.

Habit, on the other hand, implies individual acquisition, and is the result of repetition in individual experience. If, for example, nice and nasty caterpillars are placed before young chicks, both are at first seized upon with eagerness. After a few trials, the chicks learn to distinguish, and the nasty caterpillars are rejected. This definiteness of response is in every case a matter of individual acquisition, and is not ancestral; it is acquired, and not congenital.

*HABIT AND INSTINCT. By C. Lloyd Morgan, F.G.S. New York: Edward Arnold.

This formation of habits rests, however, upon an innate capacity for such habits, which may be likened to a legacy for general purposes, as need arises, while instincts are specific bequests. There are a large number of activities, the so-called instinct-habits, which in their perfection are of mixed origin; as, for example, the flight of birds. The first performance is automatic, "involving the inherited coördination of motor activities due to outgoing nerve currents, and initiated by an external stimulus under organic conditions of internal origin." This instinctive activity furnishes data to consciousness, and a basis for modification and improvement in subsequent performance. The perfected flight of the adult bird is an instinct-habit, founded upon a congenital basis but modified by acquired experience. In this sharp limitation of the term "instinct," which from a biological point of view is most desirable, to those forms of activity of purely congenital origin, our author is at variance with Wundt, who includes the acquired elements with the congenital under the designation of instinct.

As a result of the chick's first experience with the unpalatable larva, there is formed an association between the sight of the larva and its taste. Profiting by his past experience, the chick exercises thereafter an intelligent selection in the choice of caterpillars for food. This selection rests upon the innate power of association, and is developed under the quickening touch of individual experience. On this conscious selection depends the development of those activities which are acquired—*i. e.*, habits — as opposed to those which are congenital. This conscious selection by the individual of that which is desirable is the method of mental evolution, as contrasted with the elimination of the unfit by natural selection in organic evolution. In the formation of habits,—

"The *rôle* of intelligence, therefore, is not to furnish a new activity which shall be adapted to what we, the onlookers, call the end in view, but to select from a number of relatively indeterminate activities that one which experience proves to be effectual. . . . Herein, then, lies the utility of the restlessness, the exuberant activity, the varied playfulness, the prying curiosity, the inquisitiveness, the meddlesome mischievousness, the vigorous and healthy experimentalism of the young. These afford the raw material upon which intelligence exercises its power of selection. Observers of human life have not failed to contrast this useful expansiveness, ready to try all, dare all, and do all, with the narrower and more restricted, if more concentrated, efforts of those in whom the stern lessons of experience have checked so much that is picturesquely impossible. And this exuberant expansiveness of youth is a biological and psychological fact of profound significance."

Are habits acquired by parents inherited by their offspring, or do they arise *de novo* in each generation, or are they handed on by imitation and tradition? In his earlier work on "Animal Life and Intelligence," Professor Morgan held a view favoring somewhat the inheritance of individually acquired faculty. In the book before us he entirely abandons this position, owing, it seems, to a lack of decisive and abundant evidence in its favor. "There is," he says, "no conclusive evidence that the secondary automatism of habit is transferred by heredity so as to give rise to the primary automatism of instinct." Cases of instinctive behavior, such as "feigning wounded" by birds, which closely resemble intelligently acquired habits, are to be explained by natural selection acting upon congenital variations. This instinctive behavior is preceded by a habit — an intelligently acquired modification to meet some new condition of environment. This habit, acquired by successive generations, is not, however, inherited as such; but under its protection congenital variations in the direction of the modification in question are no longer suppressed by natural selection, and in time reach the full adaptive level of the original habit. The acquired modification thus paves the way for the congenital variation, which culminates in instinct.

Accepting Professor Morgan's limitations of the term "instinct," we find that man's congenital endowment presents but a meagre array of activities. Sucking, grasping with the hand, creeping, walking, a tendency to use the right hand, the sexual instincts, the expression of the coarser emotions, and the utterance of articulate syllables, well-nigh exhaust the list. The major part of his endowment consists of an innate capacity for acquisition and application, which enables him, under the guidance of parents and teachers, to cope with an environment of greatest complexity. Is this innate capacity increased from generation to generation by inheritance? Here again Professor Morgan turns to the evidence, and finds it quite inadequate to sustain a belief in the transmission by heredity of individual acquisitions. Owing to man's intelligence, natural selection no longer plays an important part in his progress. The unfit are not eliminated, and in consequence there may even have been a diminution in, a lowering in the general level of, human faculty. The developmental process has been transferred from man to his environment. The increment is to be found in history, in social institutions, in the products of art and of skill,

and in the record of noble lives; these constitute the ever-progressing social environment in which each new generation finds its place and to which it makes its contribution. In this fact, rather than in the inheritance of acquired faculty, lies the explanation of man's achievements in the past and the hope for race progress in the future.

CHARLES A. KOFOID.

MAX MÜLLER'S STUDIES IN MYTHOLOGY.*

Many years ago, Mr. Max Müller planned an exposition of the four sciences of Language, Mythology, Religion, and Thought. Three of these he has heretofore developed; the fourth is considered in the volumes before us. That the work is important, need hardly be stated. Its standpoint will be well known by everyone who has followed the learned author's work in the past. That there is somewhat of a polemical spirit in the discussion, is to be expected. Some quotations will enable us to gain an idea of the author's position.

"The really important outcome of Comparative Mythology, namely, the recognition — (1) That the different branches of the Aryan family of speech possessed before their separation not only common words but also common myths; (2) That what we call the gods of Mythology were chiefly the agents supposed to exist behind the great phenomena of nature; (3) That the names of some of these gods and heroes, common to some or to all the branches of the Aryan family of speech, and therefore much older than the Vedic or Homeric periods, constitute the most ancient and the most important material on which students of mythology have to work; and (4) That the best solution of the old riddles of Mythology are to be found in an etymological analysis of the names of gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines."

There are three schools of Comparative Mythology—the Etymological, the Analogical, the Ethno-psychical. The author, of course, belongs to the first, which he considers firmly founded; he tolerates the second, as he considers *polyonymy* active, holding that one agent in nature may figure under many different descriptive names, which appear totally unconnected after their original transparency of meaning disappears; for the third he has little use. He says:

"While these two modes of treatment are guided by well-established principles, the Ethno-psychological method is still in its purely tentative stage, and dependant chiefly on taste and judgment."

These quotations show the general plan and scope of these "Contributions." Mr. Müller demands profound linguistic knowledge as a prerequisite for profitable study of any given mythology. As profound linguistic knowledge can hardly be claimed for students outside of Aryan and Semitic languages, he would naturally see little value in present study of mythologies outside of the Aryan and Semitic. He devotes his own attention to the Vedic Mythology and the related mythologies of the old Greeks, Romans, and other ancient Aryan-speaking peoples. He presents a long and detailed study of the laws of phonetic variation now generally recognized; he shows that these are not of invariable application, and that in proper names and the names of deities in particular much latitude must be allowed. He then takes up, one after another, the god-names in the Aryan tongues, tracing the history of these names and referring them back to original nature manifestations. He still finds everywhere solar gods, dawn maidens, and the powers of the storm and cloud. Referring to the ridicule heaped upon him by critics in identifying the sun and the dawn so constantly, he throws the blame from his shoulders onto the ancients themselves. While the book is somewhat polemical, it is intended to be kindly and just, even to Mr. Herbert Spencer with his ghost theories, and to Mr. Andrew Lang. It is hard for an old man to be open to new views, but Mr. Müller makes a mighty effort here to be judicial and candid. The work is most useful. There is value in Vedic Mythology and in the lingnistic method, and these contributions are practically exhaustive in these directions.

FREDERICK STARR.

*CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCIENCE OF MYTHOLOGY. By F. Max Müller. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

Philip and Alexander of Macedon.

Mr. David G. Hogarth's biographical essay on Philip of Macedon (Scribners) gives a splendid example of what such writing should be. The essay gives both a clear view of the chief events in Philip's life, and an interesting analysis of the manner in which those events affected his character. After noting the period during which Philip, as a youthful hostage in Thebes, learned wisdom in government from his intercourse with Epaminondas, the author expands upon the difficulty of governing the diverse peoples of Macedonia, — a difficulty overcome by the fusing of distinct nationalities into a compact military force. Next, Philip is shown in the midst of his conquests, freeing the people of the conquered territory from their feudal burdens that they may welcome his government and resist the attempts at

reconquest by their feudal lords. The story is well and accurately told, but the chief merit of the essay lies in the picture given of Philip, shrewd in diplomacy, bold and fearless in battle, rough and boisterous in victory, yet always reverent of the culture of Athens, and always hoping that Athens may yet accept him as her champion. For although Philip, by creating the greatness of Macedonia, destroyed Athens' last hope of continued power, he never, not even after Chæronea, violated Attic territory. The accusation, usually made against him, of having checked the development of Athenian civilization, is refuted by the author, with the argument that the best elements of that civilization were already in process of decay, and that Macedonian supremacy gave a renewed vitality to Greek culture, by "forcing it out into the open sea," where by practical activity it influenced the whole eastern world. The essay upon Alexander is more difficult to follow, and less interesting as a study of character, the result, apparently, of an attempt to treat at similar length two personages of very dissimilar historical importance. There are few original sources of knowledge concerning Philip, as compared with what is known of Alexander. The essay upon Alexander leaves the impression of too great condensation, although at points, motives are treated at length and with an excellent analysis, as in the case of the founding of Alexandria. The book is excellently made in every way, yet should be criticised for its lack of maps with which to follow the text. There is a map of Alexander's eastern empire, but so much is put upon it that nothing can be found. It seems to us that historical works of whatever character, and particularly those intended for the general reader, should be provided with maps made to explain the text. To read the name of a place and not to know its geographical position, is of little value. The book is suited both to the general reader, and, from its wealth of references, to the student as well. Probably Mr. Hogarth's own knowledge, as an exploring scholar, of the geography of his subject, made him overlook the possible ignorance of his readers.

M. Saint-Amand's new series on the Second Empire.

The many readers of M. Imbert de Saint-Amand's brilliant historical studies of "Famous Women of the French Court" will be glad to learn that a new series of similar works, treating of the Second Empire, is now issuing from the pen of the talented author. An excellent translation, by Elizabeth Gilbert Martin, of the initial volume of the new series, which is entitled "Louis Napoleon and Mademoiselle de Montijo" (Scribners), is now before us. With this volume M. de Saint-Amand begins what he proposes shall be an elaborate study of the history of France during the reign of Napoleon III. Beginning with an eloquently written general Introduction, the opening volume tells the remarkable story of Louis Napoleon's career from early childhood down to his marriage with Mademoiselle de Montijo. It thus embraces such striking episodes as his fiascos of Strasburg and Boulogne, his long imprisonment in and escape from the fortress of Ham, his election to the Chamber of Deputies, to the Presidency, the *coup d'état*, and the proclamation of the Empire. The picture M. Saint-Amand draws in his Introduction of the Empress Eugénie is most dramatic; and it is strikingly at variance with certain recent portraits of that somewhat enigmatic woman, which we are inclined to believe have done her, to say the least, scant justice. The view Frenchmen not unnaturally take of their late Empress is tinged and warped by their resentment at what they believe to be her culpable share in the great national disaster of 1871. The sound of her name is coupled, like an echo, with that of Sedan. Had France conquered in that struggle, how widely different must have been the place in the national esteem of her who now — a *mater dolorosa*, a fallen queen, widowed, exiled, and decried—mourns over the ashes of extinguished splendor and vanished hopes. It may be that her prestige with posterity will, like Marie Antoinette's and Josephine's, be heightened by her fall, by her triple crown of sorrows worn with dignity. There is a characteristic touch of chivalrous sentiment in M. Saint-Amand's treatment of Eugénie. She is, he thinks, of all the women who have played a part in the second half of the nineteenth century, the one with whom posterity will be most occupied. M. Saint-Amand's peculiar merits have been so often pointed out by us that we need not further specify them now. The present volume—exhibiting in a marked degree the qualities which serve to make its author one of the most attractive and stimulating historical writers of the day—is by no means the least delightful he has given us. It is richly bound in crimson and gold, and contains portraits of Napoleon and Eugénie in their younger days.

Maria Theresa and Joseph II.

"Diplomatic chess in the eighteenth century: the Austrian game," would be a more expressive title for the two new numbers in the "Foreign Statesmen" series (Macmillan) on Maria Theresa and Joseph II. Two volumes to these two Austrian monarchs, and one each to Richelieu, Charlemagne, and Mirabeau, is a distribution which must rouse some wonder in those who regard the programme of the series. And it is an interesting phenomenon of distorted perspective that the important though Machiavellian labors of Kaunitz must here hide behind the names of his royal masters, while it permits Richelieu and, in the parallel series "Twelve English Statesman," Pitt to eclipse the monarchs whom they served. As an account of the diplomatic movements of the Austrian court these volumes furnish at least a useful skeleton for the formal history of the time. One who should read them expecting to find a sympathetic account of Maria Theresa and her interesting son, or an adequate picture of their period in Austria, would be disappointed. In a word, the two volumes should have been condensed into one and

entitled "Kaunitz." Then it could have been said of the work that the style is clear and the grasp of the complicated threads good. And yet it would be a very unrefreshing and little edifying historical font. The author, Rev. J. Franck Bright, is inclined to think it "not necessary to pass moral judgments upon the conduct of personages who fill the scene of history, and perhaps unusually superfluous in the present instance," yet he can scarcely suppress a feeling that the Austrian renunciation of the alliance with Great Britain was dishonorable. But the responsibility for this must fall on Kaunitz, whose theory that "self-interest alone was the guiding principle in politics" the author seems to represent as exceptional. Could Mr. Bright find an instance in eighteenth-century diplomacy where the guiding principle on the part of Great Britain was not self-interest? The volumes are excellent typographically.

Essays on Book-plates.

Somewhere between the collecting of stamps or of coins and the collecting of books or of engravings comes the collecting of book-plates. All collecting is in its nature inartistic: the collector invariably developes canons that have no relation to intrinsic value and are hence arbitrary or conventional. In some respects the collector of things delightful in themselves is the worst kind of collector that there is, for in so far as he is a collector he cares not for the particular delightfulness of this or that. In the case of books and engravings, however, it must be confessed the collector often forgets his collecting and enjoys for its own sake one thing or other that he has collected. So he is often a very good fellow. It is the same, to a somewhat lesser degree, with the collectors of book-plates. The things they collect are often charming, and they often appreciate their charm, entirely aside from their value as "examples." Hence we can read Mr. Charles Dexter Allen's "Ex Libris" (Lamson, Wolffe, & Co.) with a great deal of pleasure, for he has an appreciation of the artistic possibilities of the book-plate and, being rather the authority on the subject in this country, he has, of course, great knowledge of the development of its different styles and forms. His book is somewhat "desultory and rambling," as he himself remarks, but it presents in easily written essays a sketch of the history of the book-plate in different countries, and gives also in its illustrations a number of examples of older as well as of more recent work. The book should serve to many as an introduction to a pleasant line of contemporary artistic activity.

A handbook for the study of epics.

Miss K. M. Rabb's book on "National Epics" (McClurg) will probably be most useful as a book of reference or instruction. In one volume the author has given some account of the great epics of India and Finland, of Old English and Old High German, of Old French literature and Old Spanish, of Homer and of Virgil, and of the great modern poets, Dante, Ariosto, Camoens, Tasso, and Milton. In each case a short account of the poem is given, an abstract of its action, a bibliography and some extracts from the translations. It will be obvious that such a book will have its value. Perhaps it would not have been impossible that it should also have been made interesting, like Leigh Hunt's "Stories from the Italian Poets" or Bulfinch's "Age of Fable." We suspect the exigencies of space are here important; where one squeezes a thing into very small compass it is apt to get dry. Even as a book of reference or a text book it is not perfect. It is not quite up to date we should say, nor does it always take a good point of view. As to the first point, it will be noted that the publications of the last few years are sometimes omitted. In the case of Milton, where recent work is of value, we have Cleveland's Concordance given in place of Bradshaw's, we have no mention of Verity's edition, with its important appendices and introductions, nor of Bridge's book on Prosody. These things (with the omission of Lowell's and Dowden's essays) show a lack of thorough information where one would have thought it could have been most easily obtained. Nor do we think that the author can fully appreciate the poetry of uncivilized peoples. Because the Finnish lays "are simply runes 'loosely stitched together,' [she] can regard them only with interest and curiosity, not with admiration." Of Beowulf she remarks that "the unknown writer . . . cannot be praised for his skill in composition; the verse is rude, as was the language in which it was written." The book is not the best that could be imagined, but in spite of its drawbacks it will undoubtedly be useful to a large circle of readers.

Child Study.

The eighteenth century, "an age touched with the spirit of hope," turned its attention to children and speculated with a sort of romantic glow as to how they could best be made good men. Hence Rousseau and Pestalozzi and Froebel and Toepffer. The nineteenth century has regarded its children from different points of view: between Little Nell and Paul Dombey on the one hand, and the Psychology of the Child on the other, is a long swing of the pendulum, which is at each end, by the way, in the position of greatest instability. The child as a child is one thing, the child as an object of study is another. We have lately had in literature not a little concerning children. Nothing has yet reached the "Child's Garden of Verses" in presenting the child as a child. Mrs. Meynell in "The Children" (John Lane) rather avoids the comparison; she considers the child as an object of study. A mother herself, and a woman of refined delicacy of perception, she cannot be without sympathy, yet she can rarely regard the child as other than a very interesting circumstance. These essays have much the same charm of style as the rest of her work, but we do not feel warmed on reading them. Her children are pathetic little bundles of possibility moving about in worlds

they cannot realize. Doubtless they have their own life, but Mrs. Meynell gives no glimpse of it. Alluring, secretive, baffling, children are to her a constant source of interest.

Cruikshank's portraits of himself.

A rather choice little book that should prove attractive to fanciers of the curious is "George Cruikshank's Portraits of Himself" (London: W. T. Spencer), by Mr. George Somes Layard. The book is a thin royal octavo of ninety odd pages, and the edition is limited to one thousand copies. It contains between thirty and forty plates after Cruikshank, in each one of which may be recognized, sometimes readily and sometimes after close inspection, the portrait of the artist himself. Several of the drawings have never before been published, and others are rare examples in the possession of a well-known collector. Mr. Layard's comments on the plates and on the artist are ingenious and sympathetic, and altogether the book will readily commend itself to Cruikshank collectors. There is also an *édition de luxe* (limited to fifty numbered copies) of the work, on large hand-made paper, each copy of which will be accompanied by a photogravure plate after Sir W. Boxall's hitherto unpublished portrait of the famous caricaturist.

The beginnings of art.

Mr. Ernst Grosse's "The Beginnings of Art" is perhaps the best so far in the "Anthropological Series" (Appleton). It is by a popular German teacher. Dr. Grosse begins by claiming that the true science of art has never been investigated. Having shown what needs to be done, he studies the rude beginnings of art among the savage peoples of to-day. He refuses to look for *beginnings* except among true savages. Such populations are really very few. Those upon whom he draws for material for study are the Australians, Mincopies, Bushmen, Fuegians, Botocudo, and Eskimo. Art as applied to personal decoration is first studied; then in succession, ornamentation, representative art, the dance, poetry and music. Each is illustrated by examples drawn from the peoples mentioned. Not only is the early history of each art traced but its social influence is carefully studied. Herein lies the chief value and originality of the work.

BRIEFER MENTION.

In his "Outlines of Physics" (Macmillan), Professor Edward L. Nichols has prepared an elementary text-book to be offered as "a fair equivalent for the year of advanced mathematics now required for entrance to many colleges." Such an alternative as this in entrance requirements is, in our opinion, extremely desirable, and this text by Professor Nichols, both authoritative and up-to-date, is well fitted for its purpose. Experimental work occupies a large place, as it rightly should, in the work, and the laboratory equipment necessary for its use is not beyond the reach of any good secondary school.

The enterprise which has led the American Book Co. to plan their series of "Stories of the States" is distinctly commendable. Such books make admirable reading-matter for supplementary school use. Mr. John R. Musick's "Stories of Missouri" is the latest volume of this series, having been preceded by Mr. Stockton's "Stories of New Jersey." We note with satisfaction that forthcoming volumes are to give us "Stories of Georgia," by Mr. J. C. Harris; "Stories of Ohio," by Mr. W. D. Howells; and "Stories of Kentucky," by Mr. James Lane Allen.

The latest additions to the series of "Longmans' English Classics" are Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans," edited by Dr. Charles F. Richardson, and Dryden's "Palamon and Arcite," edited by Mr. William T. Brewster. Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. publish a pretty volume of "Lyrical and Dramatic Poems," by Robert Browning, selected and edited for school use by Mr. Edward T. Mason. Mr. A. J. George has edited Carlyle's essay on Burns for Messrs. D. C. Heath & Co. We may finally mention in this connection a treatise on "The Forms of Discourse" (Ginn), by Mr. W. B. Cairns, and "The English Language and its Grammar" (Silver, Burdett & Co.), by Miss Irene M. Mead.

LITERARY NOTES.

A new edition, with an additional chapter, of Joseph Jefferson's popular autobiography is in preparation by the Century Co.

"From the Five Rivers" is the title of a new book of Indian fiction by Mrs. F. A. Steel, to be published shortly by Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

The American Book Co. publish "Asia," by Mr. Frank G. Carpenter, an illustrated volume of descriptive sketches intended for use as a school reader.

The third part of Malory's "Le Morte Darthur" and the second volume of Montaigne's Essays have just been issued in the dainty series of "Temple Classics."

A new book by Jerome K. Jerome, with the title "Sketches in Lavender, Blue and Green," will be published immediately by Messrs. Henry Holt & Co.

M. Brunetière's New York lectures, five in number, are to be written out by the author in their definitive form, and sent to the New York "Critic" for publication.

Mr. A. E. Keet, who has been the editor of "The Forum" since August, 1895, has resigned the editorship of that periodical. He will be succeeded by Dr. J. M. Rice.

"The Story of Oliver Twist," condensed for home and school reading by Miss Ella Boyce Kirk, with an introduction by Dr. W. T. Harris, is published by Messrs. D. Appleton & Co.

An attractive edition of "John Halifax, Gentleman," with illustrations by Mr. Hugh Riviere, is published by Messrs. Harper & Brothers. It will make a very acceptable gift-book for the young.

We have received from "Saint Katharine's Hall," Davenport, Iowa, a pretty brochure entitled "Saint Katharine's Echoes," containing some creditable verses and drawings by the pupils of the Hall.

We have received from Mr. J. W. Bouton, the American agent, the first number of "The Genealogical Magazine," a new monthly periodical. It is handsomely printed, and presents an interesting programme.

Messrs. G. H. Richmond & Co. are the publishers of

a pretty new edition of "The Devotions of Bishop Andrewes," as "translated from the Greek and arranged anew by John Henry Newman." The Rev. Morgan Dix contributes an introduction.

Publication of the English version of the Polychrome Bible, edited by Prof. Paul Haupt of Johns Hopkins University, which has been so long announced, is to be begun in October next. Messrs. Dodd, Mead, & Company are to be the American publishers.

A novel venture into the periodical field is "Birds," issued by the Nature-Study Publishing Co. of Chicago. The principal feature of this new monthly is a series of full-page bird portraits, made from stuffed specimens and reproduced in colors by a photographic process. These plates are of great beauty and value.

The last bound volume of "The Century" magazine, ending with April, 1897, has for its most noteworthy features the beginnings of General Porter's "Campaigning with Grant" and of Dr. Mitchell's "Hugh Wynne." There are also three papers on Nelson, by Captain Mahan, and many other interesting articles.

Messrs. A. C. Armstrong & Son announce a new volume in their "Book Lovers' Library" entitled "The Novels of Charles Dickens — A Bibliography and Sketch," by Mr. F. G. Kitton, author of "Dickensiana," and "Charles Dickens by Pen and Pencil." The volume will contain a portrait never before published.

The Macmillan Co. send us Balzac's "The Lily of the Valley," translated by Mr. James Waring; "Ezekiel," in "The Modern Reader's Bible," edited by Professor R. G. Moulton; "The Two Noble Kinsmen," edited by Professor C. H. Herford, and "Dr. Faustus," edited by Mr. Israel Gollancz, both in the "Temple Dramatists"; and "The Lyrical Poems of Robert Herrick," edited by Mr. Ernest Rhys for the series of "The Lyric Poets."

Mr. Thomas B. Mosher has published a new edition of Mr. Charles Johnston's "From the Upanishads." This exquisite little book was obtained by Mr. Mosher a year ago as a "remainder" from the English publisher, and was noticed by us in that form. The new edition is like the old, except for the addition of a "Foreword" by the translator. It is now printed in the tasteful style made so familiar to book-lovers by Mr. Mosher's other publications.

The following lines were recently addressed by Professor Skeat to Dr. Murray, upon learning that the latter had started on the letter H in the "New English Dictionary."

"I'm glad that you've done — so I hear you say —
With words that begin with D,
And have left H. B. to be Glad and Gay
With the Glory that waits on G;
And you laugh Ha! Ha! defying fate,
As you tackle the terrible aspirate,
The H that appals the Cockney crew,
Lancashire, Essex, and Shropshire too.
For they cannot abide the Hunter's Horn,
And hold e'en Heavenly Hosts in scorn;
And I fear there are some that can scarcely say
Why you did n't give *Hat* when you worked at A,
Whose utterance leaves some doubt between
The human Hair and an Air serene,
The Harrow that creeps and the Arrow that flies,
The Heels where chilblains are wont to rise
And the nice fat Eels that are baked in pies!
We all rejoice on this New Year's Day
To hear you are fairly upon your way
To Honour and Happiness, Hope and Health —
I would you were nearer to Worldly Wealth."

Topics in Leading Periodicals.

June, 1897.

Alcohol, History of. C. E. Pellew. *Popular Science.*
Athletics, College. Albert Tyler. *Lippincott.*
Bourget, Paul. Yetta Blaze de Bury. *Forum.*
Brunetière. Irving Babbitt. *Atlantic.*
Butterflies, A Year of. F. H. Sweet. *Lippincott.*
Cabot's Discovery of North America, Date of. *Forum.*
Cliff-Dwellers, An Elder Brother to the. *Harper.*
College Admission Requirements, Reform of. *Educa'l Rev.*
Dante in America. *Dial.*
Dispensary, The, a Propagator of Pauperism. *Forum.*
Domremy, Around. Mary H. Catherwood. *Atlantic.*
Dutch Feeling towards England. Poultney Bigelow. *Harper.*
Educational Method, Study of. J. A. Reinhart. *Ed. Rev.*
England, Social, before Waterloo. A. B. Woodford. *Dial.*
Essayists, Contemporary American. B. W. Wells. *Forum.*
Fireplaces of Snow. John Murdoch. *Lippincott.*
Food, Use of, in the Body. W. O. Atwater. *Century.*
Geologists of the World at St. Petersburg. *Popular Science.*
Gladwin, Henry, and Siege of Pontiac. Chas. Moore. *Harper.*
Government. A New Form of. J. B. Bishop. *Forum.*
Greece, American Excavations in: Plataia, Erotria. *Forum.*
Greece and Turkey. Benjamin Ide Wheeler. *Atlantic.*
Gun, the Modern Heavy, Evolution of. *Popular Science.*
Harvard's Astronomical Work. Mabel L. Todd. *Century.*
Honorary Degrees in the U. S. H. T. Lukens. *Ed. Rev.*
House of Commons, Celebrities of. T. P. O'Connor. *Harper.*
Indians, Home Life of. Alice C. Fletcher. *Century.*
Individual Acquirement or Inheritance? C. A. Kofoid. *Dial.*
Library of Congress, The New. M. Schuyler. *Scribner.*
Lighthouse Service, Heroism in the. Gustav Kobbé. *Century.*
Lightning, Globe. M. Hagenau. *Popular Science.*
Lock-Step in the Public Schools. W. J. Shearer. *Atlantic.*
London Salons. C. D. Gibson. *Scribner.*
Meteorological Progress of Century. H. S. Williams. *Harper.*
Muir Glacier, Silent City of the. D. S. Jordan. *Pop. Science.*
Municipal Problem, The, and Greater New York. *Atlantic.*
New York's First Poet. E. S. Van Zile. *Lippincott.*
Parthenon, Unraveling a Riddle of the. *Century.*
Princeton, Undergraduate Life at. J. W. Alexander. *Scribner.*
Public, The, and its Public Library. J. C. Dana. *Pop. Science.*
Richardson, Sir Benjamin Ward. P. F. Bicknell. *Dial.*
Rural School Problem, The. D. L. Kiehle. *Educa'l Rev.*
Science as an Instrument of Education. *Popular Science.*
Shaw Memorial, The, and the Sculptor St. Gaudens. *Century.*
South, Higher Life in the. W. P. Trent. *Atlantic.*
Spanish Plains and Sierras. Fanny B. Workman. *Lippincott.*
Suicide and the Environment. R. N. Reeves. *Pop. Science.*
Switzerland, A New. Edwin Lord Weeks. *Harper.*
Teacup Times. Frances M. Butler. *Lippincott.*
Trans-Missouri Decision, The. G. R. Blanchard. *Forum.*
Victoria, Queen. Thomas F. Bayard. *Century.*
Victoria's "Coronation Roll." Florence Hayward. *Century.*
Walker, Francis A., Educational Work of. *Educa'l Rev.*
West, Grievance of the. J. H. Hyslop. *Forum.*
Woman Suffrage and Education. Helen Johnson. *Pop. Sci.*

List of New Books.

[*The following list, containing 65 titles, includes books received by* The Dial *since its last issue.*]

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

Cicero and his Friends: A Study of Roman Society in the Time of Cæsar. By Gaston Boissier; trans. from the French by Adnah David Jones. 12mo, uncut, pp. 399. G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.75.

Life of Abby Hopper Gibbons. Told chiefly through her correspondence. Edited by her daughter, Sarah Hopper Emerson. In 2 vols., with portraits, 12mo, gilt tops, uncut. G. P. Putnam's Sons. Boxed, $3.

General Grant. By James Grant Wilson. Illus., 12mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 390. "Great Commanders." D. Appleton & Co. $1.50.

HISTORY.

The Fall of the Congo Arabs. By Sidney Langford Hinde. With portrait and plans, large 8vo, uncut, pp. 308. Thomas Whittaker. $2.50.

The Voyage of the Mayflower. Penned and pictured by Blanche McManus. 8vo, uncut, pp. 72. "Colonial Monographs." New York: E. R. Herrick & Co. $1.25.

A Woman's Part in a Revolution. By Mrs. John Hays Hammond. 12mo, pp. 144. Longmans, Green, & Co. $1.

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